

Jake's Law

FWP Committee

EXHIBIT 15
DATE 2/3/09
HB 172

- Introduction
 - Mike Vinton
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- Why this bill exists
 - Jake was turning 12 and I called Irv Wilke with MT Hunter's Safety
 - Jake took the Hunter's Safety course
 - They allowed him to take the field course, and he passed it.
 - Minnesota does have a similar Law in effect.
 - We have met with FWP and Hunter safety directors and instructors
- Why this bill is important
 - Economic Impact of Hunting
 - Here in Montana, more than half a million anglers and hunters spent more than \$550 million on recreation in Montana year (2001)—supporting the jobs of more than 12,000 Montanans. This means, Montana's sportsmen and women not only spend time in the outdoors, but equally important, they spend lots of money doing it.
Problem with fewer children going into outdoor sports and activities
 - Current law states if you were born after January 1, 1985 you must possess a hunter's safety certificate
 - You must pass both the written and field test, which is 100% subjective
 - The written portion of the exam is very comprehensive.
 - Many people with developmental disabilities simply will never pass this written portion of the test
 - Other disabilities are allowed to hunt (i.e. Blind people) obviously with assistance.
 - Exceptions have been made for physically disabled hunters
 - The ability for other disabled people to legally hunt shouldn't be denied.
- Conclusion
 - Safety is the utmost important issue
 - MCA 45-8-344: Currently youth under 14 years old hunters must hunt with an adult over 18 (no other qualifications)
 - HB 172 creates a more safe environment making sure that the parent/guardian has had some formal training before accompanying the provisional hunters.
 - What better way to allow (new hunters) or people with disabilities to hunt than to ensure that they are assisted by a person that has qualifications such as passing the Montana Hunter's safety course.
 - **Please get this bill passed into law so that Jake and others will be able to continue the hunting tradition that we value so much.**

Montana Code Annotated - 2007

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45-8-344. Use of firearms by children under fourteen prohibited -- exceptions. It is unlawful for a parent, guardian, or other person having charge or custody of a minor child under the age of 14 years to permit the minor child to carry or use in public any firearms, except when the child is accompanied by a person having charge or custody of the child or under the supervision of a qualified firearms safety instructor or an adult who has been authorized by the parent or guardian.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 111, L. 1907; Sec. 8879, Rev. C. 1907; re-en. Sec. 11565, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 11565, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-3579, R.C.M. 1947; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 139, L. 1963; redes. by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 40, Ch. 359, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947; : amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 600, L. 1993.

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